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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,937	02/13/2001	Gaurav Aggarwal	JP920000410US1	1663
7590	05/18/2004		EXAMINER	
McGinn & Gibb, PLLC 2568-A Riva Road Suite 304 Annapolis, MD 21401			WU, JINGGE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2623	
			DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/782,937	AGGARWAL ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jingge Wu	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8, 18-20 and 30-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 11, 13-17, 23, 25-29 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 9, 10, 12, 21, 22, 24, 33, 34 and 36 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

***DETAILED ACTION***

Applicant's election without traverse of species III in paper No. 14 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 9-17, 21-29, and 33-36 are now presented for prosecution. Claims 6-8, 18-20, and 30-32 are withdrawn from consideration.

***Specification***

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an **abstract** of the disclosure. Correction is required

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-5, 11, 13-17 and 2325-29, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by US 6175663 to Huang.

As to claim 13, Huang discloses a method for modifying images characterized in that it includes the ability to assign color intensity values to pixels exposed during image manipulation operations (abstract, note the manipulation is rendering object and combining the background and object), comprising:

using the color intensity values of remaining pixels (background) in the original image (abstract, col. 8 line4-5); and

assigning color values to the exposed pixels (object area) that are similar to those of the surrounding pixels (background) so that the exposed regions (object areas) blends smoothly with the surrounding regions (fig. 4a, fig. 7, 710, col. 8 lines 3-14).

As to claims 14-15, Huang further discloses manually and automatically assigning the color values to the exposed pixels (col. 8 lines 3-7).

As to claims 16-17, Huang further discloses assigning the color value based on a intensity function determined at the pixel's location, which is using the image model (color difference) available a-priori (col. 8 lines 19-41).

As to claim 23, Huang further discloses the user explicitly restrains the area (background) from where intensity values may be used to determine the intensity values that have to be assigned to the exposed pixels (col. 8 lines 3-18).

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As to claims 1-5, 11, 25-29, and 35, the claims are the corresponding system and computer program product claims to claims 13-17 and 23. the discussions are addressed with regard to claims 13-17 and 23.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 9-10, 12, 21-22, 24, 33-34, and 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Jingge Wu whose telephone number is (703) 308-9588. He can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. The examiner can be also reached on second alternate Fridays.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to TC customer service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au, can be reached at (703) 308-6604.

The Working Group Fax number is (703) 872-9314.

Jingge Wu

Primary Patent Examiner